

AGENDA ITEM 5: Executive Director report – May 19, 2016

Prepared by: Erik Vink

Presented by: Erik Vink

Requested Action: **Receive report**

Executive Director Report
May 19, 2016

Program and Project Update

1. **Delta Heritage Area Initiative (DelHAI):**
 - a. **Delta Community Action Planning:** Commission, Yolo County, and Sacramento State University staff hosted two workshops with Clarksburg residents to develop a community action plan on April 19th and May 2nd. A third and final workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7th at the Clarksburg Library Activity Room. Commission and County staff are working with the Courtland Town Association and Walnut Grove residents on next steps for the Courtland and Walnut Grove Community Action Plans.
2. **Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC):** The DPIIC (Chair Piepho is the Commission's representative) met on May 9 in Sacramento. Chair Piepho reported on the Commission's efforts to convene the Delta as Place Interagency Work Group to promote progress on Chapter 5 (Delta as Place) recommendations. The meeting also focused on high impact science actions and an update on CA EcoRestore.
3. **Delta Region Agricultural Analysis (RUCS):** Commission and Conservancy staff will continue to work with Delta County representatives to craft a regional agricultural analysis for the five Delta counties, following a request by the Delta Counties Coalition to develop an alternate proposal . It is not anticipated that this item will come back before the Commission until late 2016 at the earliest.
4. **Delta Awareness Campaign:** The Delta Awareness Campaign, which was suspended by the Delta Conservancy pending resolution of contract issues last fall, is proceeding with the hiring of a new contractor and extension of the grant funding. We look forward to the targeted completion of the Delta-wide tourism website in the late fall.
5. **Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District Feasibility Study:** The second stakeholder workshop is scheduled for May 24 at the West Sacramento Galleria, and will be preceded by a Commission Subcommittee on Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District Feasibility Study meeting on May 18 in Sacramento; both meetings will have a focus on the beneficiary analysis.

6. **Delta Recreation Boaters Survey:** Invitations to participate in the Delta Boating survey were mailed to registered boaters in the Delta market area (as defined in the Economic Sustainability Plan). Sacramento State University and Commission staff developed the survey to inform the Commission’s Boating Needs Assessment Update; the survey asks questions about boating use and constraints, and other recreational activities boaters engage in when visiting the Delta. The online survey has received over 500 responses thus far, and concludes May 30.

7. **MWD Purchase of Delta Wetlands Properties:** As has been recently reported and confirmed at the May 11 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) board meeting, MWD is proceeding with the \$175 million purchase of five Delta islands totaling almost 20,000 acres in San Joaquin County (Bouldin Island and Bacon Island), Contra Costa County (Webb Tract and Holland Tract) and Solano County (Chippis Island). MWD has claimed that the purchase is related to potential for habitat restoration and that the agency does not intend to proceed with the proposal by current property owner Delta Wetlands Properties to create reservoir storage on Bacon Island and Webb Tract. The counties of San Joaquin and Contra Costa, along with Central Delta Water Agency and other private parties, have challenged MWD’s CEQA notice of exemption in San Joaquin County Superior Court, initially losing a ruling seeking a restraining order to halt the sale until proper environmental documentation is obtained. The next court hearing date on May 19 will focus on the merits of the lawsuit.

8. **Commission Land Use Comments:** As part of the Commission’s responsibility to ensure that local land use decisions in the Delta are consistent with the Land Use and Resource Management Plan (LURMP), staff prepare comment letters to advise local agencies on their projects’ consistency with the LURMP; the Commission also frequently comments on State and federal projects that would impact Delta resources. The chart below lists the comment letters prepared by Commission staff from March 11 through May 12, 2016.

**Land Use Projects – Comment Letters
March 11 through May 12, 2016**

County	Project Description	Authority	Primary (P) or Secondary (S) Zone; D (Delta-wide)	Comments
Contra Costa	Verizon Wireless Telecommunications Facility	Development project; PRC §29765 Findings required	P	Support for new cellular infrastructure. County ordinance protects Delta resources (aesthetics, views).
San Joaquin	Port of Stockton Programmatic Dredging	Delta as Place	S	Improves safe navigation and helps

	Maintenance Project: <i>USACE Permit for removal of 369,300 cubic yards of sediment over 5 years. Dredge placement sites are Rough & Ready and Roberts Islands.</i>			maintain the economic viability of the Port
Solano	Decker Island Levee Repair Demonstration Project: <i>Repair 200 feet of eroded bank to test viability of environmentally friendly alternative to riprap.</i>	Delta as Place	P	Support for potential to integrate levee protection with ecological restoration while maintaining existing channel configuration.
Yolo	Heringer Estates Multi-Use Facilities Project: <i>Multi-phase project includes tasting and hospitality facilities, agricultural processing and storage areas, a farm stand, an events center building, and a bed and breakfast.</i>	Development project	P	Support for projects that maintain agricultural economy through agricultural tourism and value-added agricultural production and minimize conversion of agricultural land.
Yolo	West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency Agricultural Surface Mining Permit: <i>Excavation of soil for levee fill and reclamation of the site for agricultural use and the creation of a 25.5 acre agricultural pond.</i>	Projects within Secondary Zone that impact Primary Zone	S	Supportive of projects that provide necessary improvements to area levees. Recommend use of established protocols for maintaining agricultural use.

Administrative Update

1. **Staffing Update:** Commission Assistant Executive Director Catherine Caldwell is on extended medical leave and the Commission is seeking a limited term position (at least a 6-month assignment and perhaps lasting longer) to backfill her duties. The Commission is also seeking to hire a replacement for Commission Clerk Sheri Keven, who has resigned her position and is no longer working for the Commission.
2. **Budget Update:** The Commission’s proposed FY 2016-17 budget (including a \$150,000 augmentation for updating Economic Sustainability Plan policies related to agriculture) was heard in the Assembly Budget Subcommittee March 16 and the Senate Budget Subcommittee April 7, with no objections. For the current fiscal year 2015-16, the table below shows distributed allocations across general Theme Areas identified in the Vision

2030 Strategic Plan, through March 31, 2016. Adjustments to project and program costs occur through the fiscal year as it progresses.

Strategic Theme Area	ELPF (0140)	H&WC (0516)	Reimburse ment	Multi-Year Contracts	Total	Expended through 3/30/16*	Balance
Land(Ag, LURMP) & Water	204,382	-	-	148,750	353,132	177,541	175,591
Economic Sustainability	136,725	-	-	45,088	181,813	61,453	120,361
Levees/Emergency Response	53,422	-	23,303	476,197	552,922	326,383	226,539
Recreation	3,224	237,000	-	151,300	391,524	200,888	190,636
Delta Heritage	163,358	-	-	98,500	261,858	129,145	132,713
Outreach & Education	141,172	3,000	-	36,198	180,370	111,703	68,667
Program Delivery & Capacity	371,512	-	-	33,000	404,512	221,529	182,983
Totals	1,073,795	240,000	23,303	989,033	2,326,131	1,228,642	1,097,489
<i>Please note figures reflect regular budget expenditures through March 31, 2016, and contract expenditures through April 30, 2016.</i>							

Upcoming Events:

June 3rd – First Friday Gallery Walk, Walnut Grove <https://www.facebook.com/The-Tong-405175322844713/>

June 25th and 26th - Cajun and Blues Festival – E2 Winery in Lodi <http://www.cajunbluesfestival.net/>

July 1st - First Friday Gallery Walk, Walnut Grove <https://www.facebook.com/The-Tong-405175322844713/>

July 4th - Barron Hilton Fireworks – Mandeville Tip <http://www.visitstockton.org/events/56th-annual-barron-hilton-fireworks-extravaganza/>

July 9th and 10th - Harvest Time in Brentwood – Brentwood <http://harvest4you.com/2016-harvest-time-festival/general-information/>

July 30th – Taste of the Delta – KOA Tower Park Resort <http://www.tasteofthedelta.com/>

July 31st - Pear Fair – Courtland <http://pearfair.com/>